

According to the Mississippi Agricultural Statistics Service, there were 2.2 days suitable for fieldwork for the **week ending March 24, 2002**. Planting of spring row crops has been delayed in many areas of the state due to frequent rains. Soil moisture was rated 4 percent short, 37 percent adequate, and 59 percent surplus.

Progress In Percentages						Conditions in Percentages				
Item	Event	This Week	Last Week	2001	5-Yr Avg	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Corn	Planted	13	10	27	23	--	--	--	--	--
Wheat	Jointing	23	20	40	45	1	11	37	44	7
Watermelons	Planted	4	--	--	7	--	--	--	--	--
Hay						0	8	32	46	14
Cattle						0	6	24	61	9
Pasture						2	13	34	41	10
Hay Supply						Short	Adequate		Surplus	
						1	60		39	
Feed Grain						4	94		2	

County Agent Comments

“It will take a week of dry weather before tractors can get into the fields again. Looks like we will be facing flooding problems again and possibly severe flooding if rains continue as forecast.”

—Mack Young, Quitman County

“Too cold and wet for any field work. Farmers are waiting to start planting corn.”

—Melvin Oatis, Benton County

“It is dry enough to start planting Monday morning. If the rain gets here Monday evening, then we are in the waiting mode again.”

—Stephen Winters, Grenada County

“Rain has fallen in the 2-3 inch range across the county this week. This will keep any field work at a standstill for another 5 or 6 days. Corn producers are beginning to consider alternative crops if wet weather continues.”

—Tommy Baird, Sunflower County

“Farmers are waiting on the fields and pasture to dry out after the heavy rains early this week. Corn producers are ready to plant. Cotton producers are wanting to get started preparing seedbeds or applying burn down and throwing up rows.”

— Jimbo Burkhalter, Tallahatchie County

“Rains yesterday and last night have saturated our soils. Very little farming activity can take place until the soil dries out.”

—Lee Taylor, Forrest County

“Rain last week flooded many low-lying fields. No crop or livestock loss has been reported. Ryegrass growth has slowed due to cold night temperatures. Some no-till corn has been planted, but no conventional tilled corn has been planted to date.”

— Victor Lee, Newton County

“Rains stopped corn planting this week. Producers are waiting now for the soil to dry out so they can continue to plant corn and prepare land for cotton planting. Ryegrass has also responded to the warm conditions.”

—Otis L. Davis, Madison County

“Ryegrass pastures are in good shape. Corn planting is proceeding at a good rate due to the drier weather we have been experiencing.”

—Richard Hay, Amite County

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Weather Summary from March 18, 2002 to March 24, 2002 for Mississippi													
District/Station	Air Temperature					Precipitation				4 Inch Soil Temperature			Avg Pan Evap
	Max	Min	Avg	Norm	DFN	One Week	DFN	Rain Days	Four Weeks	Max	Min	Avg	
1. Upper Delta													
Clarksdale	79	27	48	55	-7	3.13	+1.87	3	7.01				
Cleveland	81	28	52	55	-3	2.60	+1.34	4	6.10				
Tunica	71	27	50	55	-5	2.53	+1.22	3	8.28				
Extreme/Average	81	27	50	55	-5	2.75	+1.49	3	7.13				
2. North-Central													
Holly Springs	73	20	51	52	-1	2.52	+1.12	4	6.94	65	46	58	
Memphis	69	26	51	55	-4	1.23	-0.05	3	9.57				
Oxford	81	25	55	53	+2	3.09	+1.75	3	6.80				
Extreme/Average	81	20	52	54	-2	2.28	+0.95	3	7.77	65	46	58	
3. Northeast													
Booneville	79	23	51	53	-2	1.96	+0.50	4	5.99				
Corinth	79	24	54	56	-2	1.72	+0.32	4	6.72				
Iuka	78	19	50	51	-1	1.86	+0.32	4	5.01				
Pontotoc	80	25	55	55	0	2.52	+1.09	3	6.30	63	49	57	
Tupelo	83	27	54	55	-1	1.47	+0.02	2	5.39				
Verona	82	26	55	55	0	2.49	+1.12	3	5.41	68	42	57	0.17
Extreme/Average	83	19	53	54	-1	2.00	+0.60	3	5.80	68	42	57	0.17
4. Lower Delta													
Belzoni	83	31	57	57	0	1.80	+0.27	3	5.35	76	50	64	
Greenwood	83	28	55	58	-3	1.47	+0.13	2	3.93				
Rolling Fork	86	29	58	57	+1	0.42	-1.04	3	2.03	77	52	66	0.12
Stoneville	81	30	53	56	-3	2.34	+1.03	3	4.74	71	43	58	
Yazoo City	84	29	57	58	-1	1.75	+0.15	2	6.79				
Extreme/Average	86	28	56	57	-1	1.56	+0.23	3	4.57	77	43	63	0.12
5. Central													
Carthage	85	28	60	57	+3	1.25	-0.15	1	3.88				
Jackson	84	32	60	58	+2	1.78	+0.45	1	5.67				
Winona	82	24	53	53	0	2.30	+0.83	3	5.58				
Extreme/Average	85	24	58	57	+1	1.78	+0.38	2	5.04				
6. East-Central													
Brooksville	82	29	63			1.12	-0.21	1	2.88	64	49	59	
Columbus	84	28	59	57	+2	1.08	-0.13	2	4.31				
State University	83	26	57	56	+1	1.60	+0.20	3	4.61	66	46	58	0.11
Extreme/Average	84	26	60	57	+3	1.27	-0.20	2	3.93	66	46	58	0.11
7. Southwest													
Crystal Springs	84	30	59	59	0	1.22	-0.18	1	4.07	77	47	65	
Natchez	84	29	61	61	0	1.12	-0.47	2	3.90				
Oakley	85	30	61	58	+3	2.00	+0.53	1	5.31	75	50	65	
Vicksburg	84	31	60			1.91		1	4.37				
Extreme/Average	85	29	60	60	0	1.56	+0.16	1	4.41	77	47	65	
8. South-Central													
Columbia	86	33	61	60	+1	0.90	-0.62	1	4.16				
McComb	83	34	62	60	+2	0.92	-0.60	1	4.24				
Extreme/Average	86	33	62	60	+2	0.91	-0.49	1	4.16				
9. Southeast													
Beaumont	86	31	62			2.30		1	5.83				
Hattiesburg	84	32	63	60	+3	1.59	+0.12	1	4.97				
Laurel	82	32	60	59	+1	1.32	-0.10	1	2.84				
Meridian	84	30	59	59	0	1.01	-0.59	1	3.96				
Newton	85	27	61	57	+4	1.60	+0.13	1	3.99	72	46	62	0.18
Extreme/Average	86	27	61	59	+2	1.56	+0.10	1	4.32	72	46	62	0.18
10. Coastal													
Bay St Louis	86	30	62	61	+1	0.50	-1.04	1	3.10				
BiloxiAFB	77	37	61			0.20		1	3.64				
Gulfport	77	34	62	63	-1	0.31	-1.03	2	4.60				
Pascagoula	81	31	61			0.01		1	2.97				
Poplarville	84	35	65	60	+5	1.75	+0.28	2	5.70	77	57	68	
Extreme/Average	86	30	62	62	0	0.55	-0.74	1	4.09	77	57	68	
State	86	19	58	58	0	1.60	+0.22	2	5.01	77	42	62	0.15

DFN = Departure from Normal.